Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Guide 2023
Your history, your future

The University of Sydney was founded in 1850 on the land of the Gadigal people.

Today, our campuses and facilities stretch across the ancestral lands of many of Australia’s First Peoples.

Our Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander staff include senior leaders across the community who are helping to shape the University’s future.

Our graduates have distinguished themselves in all sectors of Australian society and throughout the world, and include many prominent Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander leaders and achievers.

Discover our range of programs dedicated to supporting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people who dream of studying here, and start your journey to the University of Sydney.

“‘The Gadigal Program has given me a real sense of community within the University of Sydney. It has provided me a support network of people at the University to contact whenever I need help, and I’ve made some amazing friends through this experience.’”

Kawana Crowe
proud Wiradjuri woman
Bachelor of Science and Bachelor of Advanced Studies (Advanced)

Preparing for university

We offer a range of on-campus programs so you can experience university, meet current students, receive exam support and prepare for life after school.

Gadalung Summer Program
(Years 10, 11, 12)
Spend a week on campus to find out what university is really like. You will have the opportunity to explore courses and careers, make new friends, participate in a full program of academic and extracurricular events, and access world-class facilities.

Ngara Future Focus Program
(Years 10, 11, 12)
Through the Ngara (Listen, Hear, Think) Program, students from NSW metropolitan schools are invited to unique on-campus events throughout the year, including discipline-specific and personal development workshops. You will build your confidence, receive exam support and gain access to useful tools and resources for your studies and future plans.

Tahgara Winter Program
(Year 12)
We know Year 12 can be a stressful time, so we offer tailored, individual support and academic preparation in the lead up to HSC exams. Delivered over a week-long intensive, you will have access to HSC exam preparation workshops, one-to-one tutoring, and faculty and support staff to assist you on your journey to university.

We’ll also guide you through scholarship applications, university pathways and everything you need to know as you get ready to take your next steps.

There is no cost for participating. All program related expenses – including travel, meals and accommodation – are covered by the University of Sydney.

“My advice to students is to go to events and talk to a variety of faculty members, and to apply for extracurricular programs held at the University such as the summer camp and experience days.”

Thomas Harrington
proud Bundjalung man
Bachelor of Science and Doctor of Medicine
Entry to university

When you’re ready to apply for university, we look at more than your ATAR by focusing on your interests, motivation and goals.

Gadigal Entry Program
Through our Gadigal Entry Program admissions pathway, specifically designed for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students, you will have:
- the opportunity to apply for a Gadigal early conditional offer
- lower minimum ATAR requirements
- access to an academic skills program
- ongoing academic and personal support throughout your degree.

Our dedicated staff are available to assist you throughout the admission process.

E: indigenous.recruitment@sydney.edu.au
- gadigal.sydney.edu.au

Extended Bachelors
The University has introduced 4 extended bachelor’s degrees’, which offer a dedicated pathway for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students. These extended degrees include an additional foundation year, with culturally relevant literacy and mathematics studies. These studies will equip you with excellent communication, critical and analytical skills, that will prepare you for university studies and beyond.

Explore our degrees
- Bachelor of Arts (Extended)
- Bachelor of Liberal Arts and Science (Extended)
- Bachelor of Science (Extended)
- Bachelor of Science (Extended) (Health)
Support at university

You’ll receive continuous support throughout your degree so you can achieve your potential and graduate job-ready.

The Gadigal Centre
Our dedicated student centre that supports Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students.

We are deeply committed to supporting our students with their academic, cultural, economic, and social and emotional needs.

The Gadigal Centre aspires to provide a culturally safe space which embodies high professionalism, integrity and understanding and seeks to uphold these values in all aspects of service delivery.

We want to empower you throughout your studies and beyond. Think of us as your family at the University – we will work with you to make sure that your journey here is as fun and successful as possible.

Our aim is to help you achieve your full potential and graduate from the University, job-ready.

Through the Gadigal Centre you’ll have access to:
- Mentoring Our Brothers and Sisters (MOBS) Program delivered by senior Indigenous students
- free tutoring and group sessions through our Indigenous Tutorial Assistance Scheme
- culturally safe spaces for Indigenous students.

You’ll also have access to the broader range of student support services such as careers support, disability services, financial support and academic support and enrichment programs.

Accommodation
Living on campus is a great way to meet people, build friendships and develop networks that will stay with you for life. You’ll join a supportive community, and be immersed in the full university experience from day one.

There are plenty of accommodation options to choose from, including:
- University-owned (independent living, self-catered)
- University colleges (fully inclusive of meals and programs)
- off-campus accommodation.

Scholarships
We offer a wide range of scholarships.

Gadigal Accommodation Scholarship
This scholarship subsidises rent during your first year at available University-owned student accommodation. It is open to school leavers who are commencing full-time undergraduate study at the University of Sydney. Places are limited and priority is given to regional and remote students.

Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Entry Scholarship
Valued at $10,000, the scholarship supports academically gifted Australian Indigenous students, who have obtained an ATAR in the HSC (or equivalent) of 85.0 or above, to start their studies at the University of Sydney.

Search from hundreds of offerings for Indigenous students:
- sydney.edu.au/scholarships-search

For further support, the Australian Government provides an ABSTUDY Living Allowance. Find out more at:
- servicesaustralia.gov.au
We acknowledge the tradition of custodianship and law of the Country on which the University of Sydney campuses stand. We pay our respects to those who have cared and continue to care for Country.

Application support
E: indigenous.recruitment@sydney.edu.au
sydney.edu.au/indigenous-support

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